

A digital data recording and reproducing system records only programs desired by a user. A program selector in a digital VTR or in a set-top box selects only the programs desired by the user from a plurality of programs received by a tuner in the set-top box. The programs include video, audio, data and so forth that are subjected to data compression in digital broadcasting. The program selector selects the programs in response to a user instruction sent from the user via a man-machine interface, and transfers the selected programs to a recorder. Besides, the digital data recording and reproducing system includes a decoder including a discontinuity detector for detecting discontinuity between the programs by using information specified by IEC/ISO 13818 while said decoder is decoding the compressed digital data of the programs. The discontinuity detector restarts the decoder when detecting the discontinuity between the programs.

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